



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

No. 192

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 10 a.m.

## Senate

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, by Your grace, give authority to the godly that this Nation can thrive. Continue to raise up people who have reverence for You and desire to do Your will.

Lord, give our Senators the wisdom to live blameless lives that please You. May they find joy in Your presence as they trust the unfolding of Your loving providence. Lord, empower them to use their integrity to bring stability to our Nation and world.

And Lord, thank You for the opportunity tomorrow to honor our veterans and celebrate their bravery and sacrifice.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute in morning business, please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### VETERANS DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Tomorrow is Veterans Day. Since the end of World War I, Americans have taken this day to recognize the sacrifices made by our veterans, and they did that in service to our country.

For the third consecutive year, my office recorded the oral histories of Iowa's veterans for the Library of Congress's Veterans History Project. I would urge some of my colleagues to take a look at that and see if they can help add a lot of their veterans from their respective States to the history project at the Library of Congress.

We owe our veterans a debt of gratitude for their patriotism, and it is vitally important to record the stories of veterans so that future generations will always remember their service and the sacrifice that it takes to preserve our freedom.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MARK ESPER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, the President informed us that Secretary Mark Esper's tenure leading the Department of Defense has concluded.

When the Senate considered Secretary Esper's nomination, I said you could hardly invent better qualifications to run the Pentagon than his resume. From West Point and the 101st Airborne to his time as Secretary of the Army, this leader had stepped up when his country needed him. The Secretary brought integrity, expertise, and steady leadership to the Pentagon's top job.

I am grateful for his work to keep our country safe, modernize our military, and implement the Trump administration's new national defense strategy to address the challenges of our time. A decorated combat veteran himself, he won the respect of the men and women of our Armed Forces.

The country is grateful for his career of service.

During this time of transition, I am confident in the professionalism of the men and women of the Department of Defense, not to mention our uniformed services. We are lucky to have such capable and duty-focused men and women on the watch, defending the Constitution, deterring our adversaries, and protecting the peace.

I expect to speak with Acting Secretary Miller soon to discuss the serious threats facing our country, whether from foreign terrorists or great powers like China and Russia that may

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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